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See previous “Documents on the Web” at  
<http://france.usembassy.gov/irc/intrelations/webalert/default.htm>

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#### **Central Asia**

♦ **TOWARD A EURO-ATLANTIC STRATEGY FOR THE BLACK SEA REGION**

by Eugene B. Rumer and Jeffrey Simon

National Defense University, Institute for National Strategic Studies, Occasional Paper #3, April 2006, 40 p.

[http://www.ndu.edu/inss/Occassional\\_Papers/OCP3.pdf](http://www.ndu.edu/inss/Occassional_Papers/OCP3.pdf)

“What kind of strategy should the United States and its European allies and partners pursue for building greater stability in the Black Sea region? This question looms large given the region’s growing importance as a major crossroads of energy, commerce, and criminal and terrorist activity.”

### **Foreign Aid**

#### **◆ USAID HAS BEGUN TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION IN INDONESIA AND SRI LANKA, BUT KEY PROJECTS MAY EXCEED INITIAL COST AND SCHEDULE ESTIMATES**

U.S. Government Accountability Office, April 2006, 54 p.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d06488.pdf>

“USAID has recently initiated reconstruction programs in Indonesia and Sri Lanka, but, primarily because of rising costs and scarcity of materials and labor, it appears that some projects may exceed USAID’s initial cost and schedule estimates.”

### **Middle East**

#### **◆ DEVISING A NEW STRATEGY FOR RESOLVING THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT**

The Brookings Institution, Saban Center for Middle East Policy Briefing, April 26, 2006, 26 p.

<http://www.brookings.edu/comm/events/20060426.htm>

<http://www.brookings.edu/comm/events/20060426.pdf>

To discuss the role of the United States in promoting Israeli-Palestinian peace within this new landscape, the Saban Center for Middle East Policy brought together a group of leading Israelis and Palestinians, along with representatives from the broader international community, in the annual Daniel Abraham Israel-Palestinian Workshop to generate workable ideas for U.S. efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. On April 26, the Saban Center held a public event during which key participants presented their findings and conclusions.

#### **◆ LIBYA AND THE UNITED STATES: THE NEXT STEPS**

By Ronald Bruce St John.

The Atlantic Council of the United States, Issue Brief, March 2006, 10 p.

[http://www.acus.org/library-by\\_program-security.asp](http://www.acus.org/library-by_program-security.asp)

This issue brief examines the current state of U.S. – Libyan relations and the vast improvement that has occurred, while also noting the remaining obstacles. To overcome these, the issue brief offers a set of suggestions on how the normalization process may be completed to mutual benefit.

SEE ALSO:

U.S. Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice

The United States is restoring full diplomatic relations with Libya, May 15, 2006

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2006/66235.htm>

### **Nonproliferation**

#### **◆ THE PROLIFERATION SECURITY INITIATIVE AS A NEW PARADIGM FOR PEACE AND SECURITY.**

by Dr. Mark R. Shulman.

U.S. Army War College, Strategic Studies Institute, April 1, 2006, 65 p.

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?pubID=652>

The Proliferation Security Initiative is a multinational activity launched in 2003 to enable the United States and like-minded countries to interdict the flow of weapons of mass destruction. The author addresses some of the legal, political and strategic issues raised by this ambitious and timely initiative.

## **Terrorism**

### **◆ THE COST OF IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, AND OTHER GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR OPERATIONS SINCE 9/11**

Amy Belasco, Specialist in National Defense, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division  
Congressional Research Service, The Library of Congress, April 24, 2006, 40 p.  
(see attachment: TerrorOpCostCRS)

CRS used DOD's financial reports and other sources to estimate the total cost of OIF, OEF, and enhanced security in order to address: How much has Congress appropriated for each of the three missions since the 9/11 attacks - Operation Iraqi Freedom (Iraq), Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan and other Global War on Terror operations), and Operation Noble Eagle (enhanced security for defense bases) for defense, foreign operations and related VA medical care? How much has DOD obligated on average per month for each of the three missions each year? What do trends in costs tell us about likely spending levels in the future? This report also discusses several areas that Congress may wish to pursue because information is limited and the cost effect is significant.

### **◆ COUNTRY REPORTS ON TERRORISM 2005**

U.S. Department of State, April 2006, 292 p.  
<http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/crt/c17689.htm>

"The 2005 report aims to inform, to stimulate constructive debate and to enhance our collective dynamic understanding of a global terrorist threat. It should serve as a reference tool for policymakers, the American public and our international partners about our efforts, progress and challenges in the global war on terror."

## **War Powers**

### **◆ ENERGY IN THE EXECUTIVE: RE-EXAMINING PRESIDENTIAL POWER IN THE MIDST OF THE WAR ON TERRORISM**

by John Yoo  
Heritage Foundation, First Principles #4, April 24, 2006, 10 p.  
<http://www.heritage.org/Research/NationalSecurity/fp4.cfm>

"For much of the history of the nation, Presidents and Congresses have understood that the executive's constitutional authority includes the power to begin military hostilities abroad."

## **Weapons**

### **◆ THE VIABILITY OF DIRECTED-ENERGY WEAPONS**

by Alane Kochems and Andrew Gudgel  
Heritage Foundation, Backgrounder #1931, April 28, 2006, 7 p.  
<http://www.heritage.org/Research/NationalSecurity/bg1931.cfm>

"The armed services need to move from just saying that DEWs are a good idea to fully supporting their development... The speed, ultraprecision, and non-lethal capabilities of directed-energy weapons are all good reasons why the United States should continue to research, develop, and, where appropriate, field these technologies."

## **Miscellaneous**

### **◆ SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN U.S. FOREIGN RELATIONS (1900 - 2001)**

U.S. Department of State, International Information Programs, Electronic Journal, April 2006  
<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itps/0406/iipe/iipe0406.htm>

“Like other countries operating on the global stage, the United States has both played an active role in and been acted upon by international events—and occasionally forced into a role not of its own choosing.”

**Visit the IRC website at**  
**<http://france.usembassy.gov/irc/default.htm>**

